**Financial assistance to Assam**

3292. SHRIMATI BASANTIS ARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damages inflicted by floods during the last three years and till-date in the State of Assam, district-wise;

(b) the details of financial assistance sought for by the State Government and the total financial assistance actually given to the State by Governmeat during this period, year-wise/district-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to release more financial assistance to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Details of damage due to heavy rains and floods, as reported by the Central Water Commission, during the last three years in the State of Assam as a whole, are as under :

| | Human life lost (Nos.) | Cattle lost (Nos.) | Houses damaged (In lakhs) | Cropped area Damaged (In lakh ha.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1997 | 28 | 1961 | 0.18 | 1.03 |
| 1998 | 125 | 86224 | 2.20 | 4.78 |
| 1999 | 3 | 992 | Neg. | 0.59 |

Neg—negligible

As reported by the State Government, heavy rains and floods during the current monsoon period have affected 18 districts, namely Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Darrang, Dhubri, Kamrup, Goalpara, Sonilpur, Barpeta, Nalbari, Morigaon, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Karim Ganj, resulting in loss of 32 human lives and have caused damage to cropped area in 2.24 lakh ha.

(b) and (c) No district-wise releases are made. Details of assistance provided to the State from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) during 1997-98 to 1999- 2000 are indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | CRF (Central share) | NFCR Assistance | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | sought | released |
| 1997-98 | 39.58 | Nil | Nil |
| 1998-99 | 41.60 | 1001.98 | 59.90 |
| 1999-2000 | 43.37 | Nil | Nil |

During 2000-2001, Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 15.66 crore has been released to the State. No request for additional assistance has been received from the State Government.

**Crisis in egg processing industry**

3293. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poultry farmers and egg processing industry is currently in servere crisis with dwindling sales and mounting losses;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to provide export'subsidy to egg processing industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the steps proposed to check the falling egg prices in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from Poultry Federations that poultry farmers and egg powder exporters are facing dwindling sales. Poultry is a State Subject and egg and poultry products are freely marketed commodities.

(c) and (d) Air freight subsidy is being given on the exports of hatching eggs. The rale of subsidy would be Rs. 6 per kg. or 25% of air freight approved by IATA OR 30% of FOB value whichever is less for exports to West Asia, South East Asia and CIS countries.